Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 PRS-01 ISO-00 SSM-05 SS-15 SIG-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 SP-02 INRE-00 MCT-01 L-03 ACDA-10 H-02 /117 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:REUNDELAND:RGH

APPROVED BY NEA/P:REUNDELAND

S/PRS - MR. CARTER (INFO)

H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)

SSM - MR. MC ANDREW

NEA - MR. COLLUMS

NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER

NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH

NEA/EGY - MR. NEWBERRY

S/S -JDTHYDEN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION SINAI

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

USMISSION GENEVA

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AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
INFO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE
USCINCEUR

UNCLAS STATE 187017 TOSEC 080210

CINCEUR FOR POLAD, ALEXANDRIA FOR AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - AUGUST 8

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE, FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR AUGUST 8, 1977. FYI ONLY SPOKESMAN TODAY WAS JOHN TRATTNER.

MR. TRATTNER: THE SECRETARY WILL STAY OVER IN LONDON AN EXTRA DAY AND RETURN HERE LATE -- AS I NOW UNDERSTAND IT -- LATE SATURDAY EVENING THIS WEEK. THE CHANGE IS DUE TO, FIRST HIS ANNOUNCED REVISITS -- I THINK HE ANNOUNCED THOSE YESTERDAY OR THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY -- REVISITS TO SEVERAL OF THE ARAB CAPITALS BEFORE HE LEAVES THE MIDDLE EAST AREA, AND ALSO IN ORDER TO HAVE UNCLASSIFIED

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TIME TO CONFER ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN QUESTIONS IN LONDON WITH THE BRITISH AND SOUTH AFRICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS -- AND ALSO, I BELIEVE, WITH PRESIDENT NYERERE.

- Q. CAN YOU CLARIFY THE PLO SITUATION? WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT IT?
- A. WHICH PLO SITUATION?
- Q. WELL, THE LATEST REPORT I HEARD WAS THAT THE PLO IS

ABOUT TO MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT -- PRESUMABLY ACCEPTING 242.

- A. I CAN'T CLARIFY THAT FOR YOU, THAT ONE. THAT'S COMPLETELY UP TO THEM, I SHOULD THINK.
- Q. WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT ANY CONTACTS, AMERICAN CONTACTS WITH THE PLO?
- A. ONLY WHAT I BELIEVE HODDING HAS BEEN SAYING OUT THERE -- WHICH IS THAT WE HAVE BEEN SEEKING CLARIFICATION OF PLO VIEWS FROM THE ARAB LEADERS THAT THE SECRETARY

HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH.

THIS IS SOMETHING I THINK THE SECRETARY SAID HE WOULD DO BEFORE HE LEFT. BUT I CAN ONLY REPEAT THAT TO YOU; AND ANYTHING ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING THE TRIP, OF COURSE, HAS TO COME FROM THE PARTY TRAVELING.

Q. DO YOU KNOW THAT THERE HAS BEEN A SHIFT IN PLO VIEWS?

A. I DON'T.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON U.S.-IRANIAN NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH I UNDERSTAND ARE STARTING TODAY, ON THE SALE OF NUCLEAR REACTORS?
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A. THIS IS THE ENERGY COMMITTEE OF THE U.S.-IRAN JOINT COMMISSION WHICH IS MEETING HERE TODAY AND TOMORROW. IN ADDITION TO GENERAL DISCUSSIONS ON COOPERATION IN THE ENERGY FIELD BETWEEN IRAN AND THE UNITED STATES, WE WILL ALSO BE DISCUSSING A PROPOSED BILATERAL AGREEMENT FOR NUCLEAR COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES -- WHICH I THINK FOR AT LEAST A COUPLE OF YEARS HAS BEEN UNDER DISCUSSION.

THAT IS ABOUT ALL I HAVE ON IT.

Q. WE HAVE A DISPATCH FROM TEHRAN SAYING THAT THE IRANIANS ARE HERE TO BUY BETWEEN SIX AND EIGHT REACTORS WORTH TEN BILLION DOLLARS.

A. MY INFORMATION IS THAT BEFORE THEY COULD DO THAT, A BILATERAL AGREEMENT WOULD BE NECESSARY. AND ONCE THAT HAS BEEN AGREED, THEN WE WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO DISCUSS SPECIFIC CONTRACTS. I WOULD ADD THAT IRAN IS A FULL PARTY TO THE NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION TREATY.

Q. ARE THERE NEGOTIATIONS HERE EXTENDING INTO THE

PURCHASE OF THESE LONG-DISCUSSED NUCLEAR REACTORS?

A. I DON'T THINK SPECIFICALLY ON THE PURCHASE OF THEM, BUT WE HAVE TO HAVE AN AGREEMENT WITH THEM I WOULD THINK, AS TO HOW THESE REACTORS ARE OPERATED AND THE USUAL SAFE-GUARD DISCUSSIONS THAT WOULD HAVE TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT -- SAFEGUARD CONSIDERATIONS, I MEAN--THAT WOULD HAVE TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

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BUT YOU ARE ASKING ME IF THE DISCUSSIONS NOW CONCERN SPECIFIC PURCHASES AND I AM SAYING THAT I DON'T BELIEVE SO.

Q. DO YOU EXPECT THE AGREEMENT TO BE REACHED THOUGH, IN THE COURSE OF THESE DISCUSSIONS?

A. THERE IS NO WAY TO TELL THAT, I AM AFRAID.

Q. WELL, THESE DISCUSSIONS AS YOU SAY ARE THE RESULT OF A COUPLE OF YEARS OF WORK.

A. YES.

Q. SO YOU ARE NOT GOING TO BE TERRIBLY SURPRISED BY WHAT IS DISCUSSED. SO DO YOU HAVE ANY SENSE OF WHETHER YOU EXPECT AN AGREEMENT THIS WEEK WHICH COULD THEN LEAD TO THE DETAILED DISCUSSIONS ABOUT SPECIFIC REACTORS?

A. I DON'T.

Q. THE IRANIAN NEWSPAPERS GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THEY ARE COMING HERE JUST TO SIGN THE DEAL -- I MEAN THAT DISCUSSIONS HAVE ALREADY TAKEN PLACE -- THAT'S THE IRANIAN NEWSPAPERS, THOUGH.

A. I HAVE CHECKED INTO IT AND THIS IS THE INFORMATION WHICH HAS BEEN PROVIDED TO ME.

Q. WHO IS THE HEAD OF IT? DO YOU HAVE ANY NAMES THERE?

A. YES, I DO: THE IRANIAN IS DR. AKBAR ETEMAD; HE IS THE HEAD OF THE ATOMIC ENERGY ORGANIZATION OF IRAN. AND OUR SIDE IS LED BY ROBERT FRI, WHO IS ACTING ADMINISTRATOR OF ERDA.

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Q. IS THAT WHERE THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE TAKING PLACE? AT ERDA, OR HERE?

A. AGAIN, I DON'T KNOW PRECISELY. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR AUGUST 8, 1977. **TAGS:** PFOR, SOPN, PDEV, OVIP, TECH, US, XF, UK, SF, IR, PLO, (VANCE, CYRUS R) **To:** AMMAN ALEXANDRIA MULTIPLE

Type: TE

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